



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## NMFS EXTENDS THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED RULE ON ATLANTIC SHARKS REGARDING THE 2007 1<sup>ST</sup> TRIMESTER SEASON LENGTHS AND QUOTAS

On October 5, 2006 (71 FR 58778), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published the proposed rule for the 2007 1<sup>st</sup> trimester shark season lengths and quotas, requested comments on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA), and scheduled three public hearings throughout October 2006 to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public regarding the proposed rule and draft EA. **Due to late dealer reports that may substantially change landings estimates of large and small coastal sharks during the first trimester of 2006 for the Gulf of Mexico, NMFS is extending the comment period on the proposed rule and its associated EA until 5 p.m., November 13, 2006.** The original comment period was scheduled to conclude on November 1, 2006.

NMFS is still updating the landings estimates and will release them in a future Federal Register notice. This comment period extension will ensure that the revised landings estimates are available for public review prior to the close of the comment period. At this time, NMFS does not expect the landings estimates or the proposed measures to change substantially in the South Atlantic or North Atlantic regions. However, in order to incorporate these updated landings and provide adequate opportunities for public comment by constituents, NMFS is extending the public comment period on the proposed rule and draft EA.

Please contact Mr. Michael Clark or Ms. Karyl Brewster-Geisz, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2347, for information on the proposed rule or draft EA.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS Fisheries interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register.

Alan Risenhoover  
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Date

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-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>

For those who receive email notifications, you will continue to receive fax notices until October 31, 2006, at which time the fax network will be discontinued.

